

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES



CHAFEE IL NEWS BULLETIN

Moving Indiana Foster Youth Toward Permanency

March 2007

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<http://www.in.gov/dcs/policies/cwmanual.html>

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<https://www.statevoucher.org/>

IL Training on Policy and Transition Planning

Family Case Managers with a teen, age 16 or older, on their caseload should attend this training to ensure that planning takes place for youth as they are aging out of care. Please register for a specific training with Mary Lou Easter at mary.easter@dcs.in.gov as some sites only have room for 35 people. Registration will be on a first come, first served basis. Additional training will be scheduled in the fall. This training is also open to Probation staff, CASAs, and Chafee IL Providers staff or others working with foster youth. Please register ASAP.

| Date | Time and Room | Location |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| March 12, 2007 Monday | 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm Entrance #4, park in the rear. Enter thru the double doors on the East side of the building. Push security buzzer by door to enter. | Youth Opportunity Center 3600 Kilgore Ave, Muncie |
| March 19, 2007 Monday | 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm Large Conference Room | Marion County DCS 4150 N. Keystone, Indianapolis |
| March 20, 2007 Tuesday | 8:30 am to 12:00 pm Large Conference Room | Marion County DCS 4150 N. Keystone, Indianapolis |
| March 21, 2007 Wednesday | 8:30 am to 12:00 pm Basement | Tippecanoe Co DCS 111 N. 4 th Street, Lafayette |
| April 3, 2007 Tuesday | 8:30 am to 12:00 pm - Central Time | Southwest Training Center 604 Quail Run Road , Vincennes |
| April 3, 2007 Tuesday | 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm - Central Time Conference Room 165-C | Vanderburgh Co. DFC. 100 E. Sycamore St., Evansville |
| April 4, 2007 Wednesday | 8:30 am to 12:00 pm Off of Lake Road, turn right near electric substation | Southeast Training Center 375 W. Lovers Lane, Scottsburg |
| April 5, 2007 Thursday | 8:30 am to 12:00 pm Entrance is through the back of the west side of the building under the | Lawrence County Work One 918 16 th Street, Bedford Parking is available in two lots behind the |

CONTACT US:**IL Coordinator**

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| April 12, 2007 Thursday | 8:30 am to 12:00 pm - Central Time 3rd Floor Conference | Lake Co DCS Room 661 Broadway, Gary FULL |
| April 12, 2007 Thursday | 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm - Central Time 3 ^d floor Conference Room | Lake Co DCS 661 Broadway, Gary FULL |
| April 16, 2007 Monday | 8:30 am to 12:00 pm - Central Time 1 st building on left on Woodland Ave | NW Training Center 1551 S. Woodland Ave., Michigan City |
| April 17, 2007 Tuesday | 8:30 am to 12:00 pm Atrium | Juvenile Justice Center 1000 S. Michigan , South Bend |
| April 18, 2007 Wednesday | 8:30 am to 12:00 pm Basement (allow extra time for Security Officer to let you in) | NE Training Center-Allen Co DCS 201 East Rudisill, Fort Wayne |
| April 18, 2007 Wednesday | 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm Basement (allow extra time for Security Officer to let you in) | NE Training Center-Allen Co DCS 201 East Rudisill, Fort Wayne |

Computer Camp Youth Selected

This year a 3rd computer camp was added due to the popularity of the camps and the need to include more youth. With the 3rd camp available, applications increased to 142. Of those 142 applications, only 60 could be selected. The competition was very strong this year with youth writing good essays. The youth selected represent 33 counties. Everyone should be very proud of all the youth that applied. Please continue to encourage the youth in developing their writing skills as well as participating in school, employment, and volunteer work.

Below is a list of the home counties of the youth that were selected and the alternates for the 3 computer camps to be held this year.

Allen-8 + 1 alternate
Bartholomew-1
Clark-2
DeKalb-1
Delaware-1
Dubois-1
Fayette-2 +1 alternate
Fountain-1 alternate
Greene-1

Harrison-1
Henry-1
Jackson-1
Knox-1
Kosciusko-2
Lake-2 + 1 alternate
Laporte-3
Marion-3
Monroe-4

Morgan-1
Newton-2
Noble-1
Parke-1
Perry-1
Pike-1
Porter-1 + 1 alternate
Randolph-1
Ripley-2

Shelby-1
St. Joseph-4
Tippecanoe-1
Vanderburgh-3
Vigo-4 +2 alternates
Wabash-2 alternates

The alternates are only able to attend if a youth chooses not to participate in the camp in which they were selected as an alternate. The alternates are to be congratulated for reaching this point given the number of applications received and the number selected.

Guardian Scholars Program for Former Foster Youth

Guardian Scholars serves former foster youth who are attending or planning to attend Ball State University and Ivy Tech East Central (Muncie, Anderson and Marion). Unfortunately, young people who go directly from foster care to college often lack access to the consistent support it takes for scholastic success, but the Guardian Scholars program exists to make sure former foster youth have a reliable network of support to succeed in college – and life.

The Guardian Scholars program provides access to community and campus resources, leadership development, mentoring and tutoring, career exploration, and financial aid assistance, but most of all, consistent and stable support to ensure scholastic success. Not only does Guardian Scholars help former foster youth achieve independence and success, but it gives them a chance to help others. Guardian Scholar students get valuable leadership experience by mentoring other incoming students who need help. The staff at Guardian Scholars connects with former foster youth on a personal level, acting as advocates, role models, mentors, parental figures, and friends.

One Ball State University Guardian Scholar sophomore comments, "The Guardian Scholars program makes it so easy to get things done. I never knew the campus had so many ways to help the students." When former foster youth need help getting difficult things done, Guardian Scholars staff and students will be there. The transition from high school to adulthood, especially if you are college bound, can be an epic challenge, but the support of Guardian Scholars helps ease the stress and provided guidance and reassurance as former foster youth take a hold of their lives and strive for success.

For further information and/or question please contact the Guardian Scholars Program at 765-285-5538. Also, please feel free to visit the Guardian Scholars website at <http://www.bsu.edu/ssrc> and click on the Guardian Scholars link.

Our Town is Actively Seeking Referrals

If you know a young adult who needs support to make a successful transition to and benefit from interacting with their same-age peers, please consider a referral to Our Town.

Individuals referred to Our Town must:

- Be 18 -25 years old
- Have a serious mental illness (i.e., Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, Major Depression)
- Have a history of multiple:
 - Hospitalizations; and/or
 - ER visits; and/or
 - Legal charges; and/or
 - Homelessness;
- Have Medicaid (Disability) or be eligible for Medicaid due to disability
- live in Marion County (target area: northeast side)

Please call Our Town Director, Michelle Danner at 317-429-7217 to discuss admission in more detail.

What is Our Town?

Our Town is a program of Mental Health America of Greater Indianapolis (formerly Mental Health Association of Marion County) and Community Health Network's Gallahue Mental Health Services. Our Town is a community-based mental health services program that provides comprehensive, individualized services to transition age youth ages 18 to 25 with serious mental illness, called "members" of Our Town. Our Town's support services are designed to help young adults improve their overall quality of life and live more independently in the community. Support is provided in the areas of employment, education, community integration, housing, social/recreation, money management and independent living skills, along with psychiatric care and substance abuse treatment.

Chrysalis Academy in Indianapolis has Openings

"The way my life was going I would have been sent to jail or living in the street. I needed direction and that push to get me started on a good future. Thanks Chrysalis Board and staff for having this place so I can get my life straight and go to college"
- Jerome

If you know of a young man between the ages of 18 and 24 who lacks direction and the skills to become a successful adult, you may be interested in referring him to the Chrysalis Academy described below. There is no cost to the youth. The qualified candidate will

- be literate at a 6th grade level
- have no severe emotional or behavioral problems
- be interested in employment and further education
- have no history of violence
- be free of active addiction to drugs or alcohol
- be free of adult felony

Interviews will be scheduled from March 8 through March 23, 2007, and the program begins on March 26. For an appointment, please call 317-347-4444 or toll free at 1-877-959-1100.

THE CHRYSALIS ACADEMY PROGRAM

Chrysalis Academy, located at 5181 N. High School Rd., Indianapolis, is a voluntary residential training program which offers young men ages 18 to 24 the opportunity to learn the skills they need to enter successful adulthood. They will learn those skills in a safe and loving home with staff and volunteers who will coach and train them for a minimum of six months at the residence and then follow them for 5 years to ensure success.

The goal for each young man enrolled at Chrysalis is to become self-sufficient and equipped to be a productive citizen, parent, worker and role model in his community. Chrysalis Academy will provide a home for him rather than an institutional setting. Staff will be accountable for his supervision at all times, day and night in overlapping shifts. Each youth will work with staff to create an individual development plan for his stay at Chrysalis and beyond. The program is voluntary, and provides a holistic curriculum. Each youth accepted into the Chrysalis Academy program will be supplied with the following:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| life skills training | academic remediation | counseling mentoring |
| work ethic | community connection | job search & retention skills |
| vocational guidance | housing | 5 years of follow-up |

The social, emotional, educational and physical needs of these young men will be addressed on an individual basis. In addition, they will learn the advantages in working and living together in a positive environment.

As soon as a youth is deemed work-ready, he will get assistance in finding and keeping a job while still in residence. When his job is stabilized and he is ready to live on his own, he will get assistance in finding secure housing.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Goals for Chrysalis youth at graduation include:

- 1) return to school or completion of GED with part-time employment,
- 2) enrollment in higher education or a career skills training program with part-time employment, or
- 3) full-time employment with income sufficient to sustain independence, and
- 4) stable housing.

If you have a client who needs what Chrysalis has to offer, and he is willing to commit to a minimum of 6 months of residential learning followed by employment and continued education, please contact us.

Joyce Duvall, Executive Director
317-347-4444
Toll free: 1-877-959.1100
joyce@chrysalisacademy.org

Chrysalis Academy
5181 N. High School Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46254
www.chrysalisacademy.org

Hoosier Youth ChalleNGe Academy

<http://www.ngycp.org/>

Hoosier Youth ChalleNGe Academy (HYCA) is a preventive rather than remedial "youth at risk" program that targets unemployed, drug free, high school dropouts, 16-18 years of age. The Indiana National Guard Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy is part of the National Youth ChalleNGe Program which was established in 1993 by the National Guard. The Youth ChalleNGe Program was developed to change the life path of young men and women between the ages of 16 and 18 who have dropped out of high school by brining structure and discipline to these unfocused lives with an emphasis on education and life coping skills.

The academy is a seventeen month program and consists of three phases: a two-week resident pre-challenge phase, a five month resident challenge phase and a twelve month post graduation non-resident phase. Applicants must be volunteers between the ages of 16 and 18 years of age, not in trouble with the law, drug free, unemployed and high school drop outs. Prospective applicants must demonstrate a desire to improve themselves to become a successful and productive citizen of Indiana.

Cadets will focus on the eight core components throughout the seventeen month program. The core components are: leadership, responsible citizenship, academic excellence through the attainment of their GED, job skills, life coping skills, health and hygiene, service to community and physical fitness. Instructors will emphasize self-discipline, self-esteem, education, and development of healthy lifestyles throughout the 17 month program. ChalleNGe empowers youths to embrace responsibility, achievement and positive behavior. The Hoosier Youth ChalleNGe Academy program will instill confidence, foster ambition and increase employment opportunities for the graduate.

The Hoosier Youth ChalleNGe Academy will be located at 3856 E Hospital Road in Edinburgh, Indiana across the road from Camp Atterbury. Hoosier Youth ChalleNGe Academy will conduct the first class on July 8th, 2007.

"The Indiana National Guard is proud to be the sponsoring agent for the Hoosier Youth ChalleNGe Academy which will assist Hoosier families and communities throughout Indiana. The Hoosier Youth ChalleNGe e Academy will offer at-risk youth a chance to change their lives. The graduates of the program will move on to further education, become employed or join the military in service to their community, State and Nation" said Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger.